

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphan."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McLELLAN, Editor.

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NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription

always state whether renewal or new

subscriber.

When you renew from another post

office give former address as well.

When change of address is desired be

sure to give former address.

This is the time to begin a war of

extermination upon the disease-carrying

fly.

There are strong hopes that President

Taft will be present at the unveiling

of the monument to Gen. Custer at

Monroe, Mich., June 4.

Gov. Hughes's career must be the

greatest inspiration to other men who

want to rise in public favor. He won

by absolute honesty of purpose and

conviction and fearlessness in maintain-

ing his ideas against the most power-

ful political machine in the country.

It was real cruel in Aldrich to step

down and out and take away so much

of the capital of the screechers. They

will now have to think up someone else

to blame for everything, and thinking

is such hard and unusual work for

them.

John W. Long, Department Com-

mander of New Mexico, notifies all vet-

erans that the 27th Annual Encamp-

ment will be held at Las Vegas June 8

and 9. Commander-in-Chief Van Sant

and some other National officers will be

present.

Air sailing has become the most popu-

lar amusement in Germany, with 46

fine aviation clubs in actual operation

and more being formed every day. The

membership of these clubs at last ac-

counts was over 20,000, having quad-

rupled within a year.

Ex-Senator David B. Hill is now 67

years of age, and is now definitely out

of politics, in which he played an im-

portant part for the long period of 36

years. For 24 years, from 1870 to 1894,

he was uniformly successful, and then

came 12 years of uninterrupted fail-

ures. His last and greatest was when

he staked his political fortunes on the

election of Alton B. Parker in 1904.

The automobile is taking possession

of New York, with the Secretary of

State reporting that there are more

than 100,000 horseless vehicles in ac-

tive use in the State. The last reported

figure was numbered 100,500, and the regis-

tration is going on at the rate of 250 a

day. There are more than 57,000 li-

censed chauffeurs in the State, and it is

estimated that the weekly investment

in the gas wagons reaches \$1,500,000.

Roosevelt's alarm as to race suicide

is emphasized by the census returns.

Last year 1,000 American mothers only

had 21 children born to them, while

the same number of Italians had 175,

Spanish mothers had 123, English 92

and Germans 96 children to every 1,000

mothers. Even the French were very

much ahead of the natives, with 75

children born to every 1,000 mothers.

If this condition does not radically

change, this country will soon become

as thoroughly Latinized as Italy or France.

Valdez, Alaska, seems up to the pres-

ent time the snowiest place in the

world, at least in Uncle Sam's domi-

nions. Actual measurement showed that

snow fell to the depth of 50 feet last

Winter. This depth could not be main-

tained, however, against the rain and

the frequent bursts of hot sunshine, and

the average depth was about 15 feet.

Business was carried on by electric

lights, and the streets were tunneled,

thru which the people went about their

usual vocations.

In the old stories and plays the big

tobacco quid was an invariable accom-

paniment of the sailor, as were his flat

cap and bell-bottom trousers. His big

quid stuck out in his cheek like a bolt

in its last week, and he shifted it from

one side to the other to emphasize the

points in his conversation. Like many

other things, this now seems to be pass-

ing. Every year the Naval Department

buys less and less chewing tobacco for

the Navy ratings. Last year the De-

partment contracted for 226,000 pounds

of chewing tobacco, but this year it will

only ask for bids for 150,000 pounds,

or 70,000 less than the year before.

It is said that the Democratic Na-

tional Committee are quite con-

vinced that no New York Democrat will

be nominated for President in 1912.

They say that New York and New En-

gland have forever lost control of the

Democratic Party. McClellan, Seymour,

Greeley, Tilden and Hancock were all

Eastern Democrats. Then came Bryan,

with a return to the East when Alton

B. Parker was nominated. In the old

days the Democrats could go into a

National Convention and say that no

candidate could be elected without the

vote of New York. This is no longer

the case, and the acceptor of political

power is now of the Alleghenies.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE PENSION BILL.

While we firmly believe in the policy of rigid economy in the present condition of the Treasury, and as possessors of common sense think that the public expenditures should be kept within reasonable relation to the amount of money on hand, yet we are opposed quite as inflexibly to an undue weight of this economy being put upon the veterans and their widows.

The veterans stand in an entirely different relation to any other creditors of the Government. Differing from the bondholder and contractor, the officer or man in the Army or Navy and every other class of claimants, their debt is personal to them, and ceases to be a debt with their lives. There is nothing truer with regard to pensioners than the old adage, "Death pays all debts." Therefore, the Government should make all haste and strain every nerve to pay these debts of honor while the creditors are yet alive.

For many years after the war the people subjected themselves to the most unusual sacrifice to pay the debts due to those who had lent money to the Nation during the war and to those who had sold it guns, ammunition, hardtack, pork and clothing. For many years a people not one-tenth as rich as to-day paid yearly approximately as much as is now being paid out for pensions. In order to satisfy the bondholders and other creditors to the last cent of their claims. From 1865 to 1879 the Government paid annually from \$100,000,000 to \$142,000,000 in gold in satisfaction of the public debt. It was not until 1880 that the interest charge fell below \$100,000,000 a year. It must be remembered that this payment was in gold at the time when the greenback fell at times to 70 cents, and therefore the interest charge alone should be increased as much as 20 per cent. There was in addition to this enormous interest charge payments of premiums and other allowances to the bondholder which swelled the total expenditure above anything paid out for pensions in recent years. It must be also kept in mind that this burden was not spread over the whole country, as at present, but it was borne almost wholly by the two-thirds of the country which remained loyal. The States lately in rebellion paid very little of the taxes during those years. Therefore, as said before, this great burden was borne by less than one-tenth of the present wealth of the United States. Anyone can see this who reflects for a moment upon the condition of the country in the 14 years immediately succeeding the war.

An undue proportion of the burden was borne by the young men who had fought the war thru to victory, and then came home to throw their great energies into the work of building up the country and repairing the ravages of war. They toiled as faithfully and bravely at this as long as their strength remained as they did in fighting thru the colossal struggle, and the marvelous development of the country beyond the Mississippi is an eternal monument to their energy and effectiveness. They insisted firmly that the Government should pay every cent of its obligations to its creditors, they voted overwhelmingly in favor of this every time that the question was brought up, and their votes carried the day in favor of absolute honesty toward the Nation's creditors. These facts have faded from the minds of the present generation, but they should be brought up with the utmost force and emphasis whenever there is a complaint made as to the "burden" of the pension expenditures.

The National Tribune pension bill simply proposes that the Government shall treat its veteran creditors as fairly and equitably as it did the bondholders and contractors, and the passage of that bill will not represent all things considered, anything like the effort required to carry the enormous payments for interest, premium and other allowances to the bondholders under which the country labored for the 15 years immediately succeeding the war. The National Tribune pension bill is the farthest separation from any extravagance or even liberal generosity. It is not even repayment to the veterans for their monetary sacrifices in abandoning everything to serve the Government. It is only a partial payment in money for those sacrifices, and its passage will be only decent recognition of an overwhelming debt which can never be paid.

THE QUESTION OF LIBERIA.

The loud cry for help which has come from Liberia will certainly be answered, but how is a problem. The situation of the little negro republic appeals strongly to every citizen of the country, with Democrats and Republicans equally interested and asserting that something should be done. The only question is whether we shall let Liberia be absorbed by France or Great Britain, or retain it as a foothold on the Dark Continent, and an outlet for our more enterprising negroes who will see a future there when the Republic is put upon its feet and its rich possibilities are made available by American enterprise and capital. The first trouble is as to Liberia's boundaries and the next her finances. Her total debts amount of only \$1,283,000, while the country, if properly developed, would be one of exceeding richness. It does not look as if we could withdraw our hand from Liberia without bad faith, since our interest in the country dates from even before the formation of the Republic. In 1820, when the slavery question began to be disturbing, colonization was preached as a remedy for our race troubles, and a great many of our leading men and women took a deep interest in this scheme. No less a person than Henry Clay was the head of the society, and he was an active colonizationist from the first. Many rich bequests were given to the society by philanthropic people, and Liberian societies were formed in Virginia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Louisiana. In 1821 Lieut. Stockton, U. S. N., bought from the native princes a tract of land about Cape Mesurado, and difficulties were at once encountered in stopping the slave trade. A 30-acre tract was allotted to

each man who settled, with means for cultivating. The first settlers generally became discontented and returned to America, but Elijah Johnson, a full-blooded negro, remained and was the life of the colony, which he enlarged by the purchase of new tracts. A town was founded called Edina in acknowledgment of the monetary help sent from Edinburgh. Many of the neighboring chiefs were received into the colony, and others were whipped out. The colonization societies hindered the development of the colony by its sentimental and impracticable ideas. In 1847 the colony was declared an independent Republic and its destiny given over to itself. It began to show more prosperity. Schools and churches were formed, a regular postal system was introduced, newspapers were established, and a determined opposition to slavery in the neighboring States began. A constitution was adopted, framed after that of the United States, with a President, Vice President, Council of six ministers, and a Congress, composed of 22 members in both houses. Voters had to be of negro blood and own property. The Republic had a coastline of 400 miles, with a total area of 35,000 square miles, or about the size of Indiana, but only the coast strip, with an average width of seven miles, is developed and administered. This part of the country is swampy and flat, while the interior is high ground, hilly, very productive and clothed with valuable forests of gum trees, oil palms and pepper shrubs. Enslaves and elephants abound. It is believed that there are very rich deposits of gold in the country, and Liberia coffee is held to be the best in the world. The chief exports are coffee, rubber, cotton, palm oil and palm kernels. The capital is Monrovia, named after President Monroe, and has a population of about 5,000. The population of the Republic is estimated at about 2,000,000, of whom 60,000 are American negroes. These are orthodox protestants, mostly Episcopalians. The rest of the people are Mohammedans. A commission was appointed to inquire into the affairs of the Republic, and this has made the following recommendations:

1. That the United States extend its aid to Liberia in the prompt settlement of pending boundary disputes.
 2. That the United States lend its aid to Liberia in organizing and drilling an adequate constabulary or frontier police force.
 3. That the United States establish and maintain a research station in Liberia.
 4. That the United States lend its assistance to the Liberian Government in the reform of its internal finances.
 5. That the United States lend its aid to Liberia in organizing and drilling an adequate constabulary or frontier police force.
 6. That the United States establish and maintain a research station in Liberia.
- If Congress approves these, Secretary Knox is ready to negotiate a treaty to make these recommendations effective.

Of the greatest importance is the proposition of American capitalists, with the consent and co-operation of the Chinese authorities, to build a great new line of railroad thru some of the richest regions of northern China. It will be remembered that the effort to take over the present lines in Manchuria by a syndicate of American and European capitalists came to a halt on account of the opposition of Russia and Japan. The new proposition contemplates a road 1,000 miles long. The Tsitsihar-Aigun Road, as it is called, will be of immense advantage in introducing American and European goods into an enormously profitable market. Influenced by England, Japan has given her consent, but Russia naturally frowns upon anything that threatens to make competition for her trade. China, however, replies that the Russian consent is not needed, and that her prerogative of interference was abolished thru her failure to protect the railways against Japan. Our State Department has taken the greatest interest in the matter, and is helping along the scheme as much as possible.

For the first time for decades, if not centuries, England will have a King who speaks idiomatic English. George I hardly spoke a word of the language, and George II was little better. George III was born in England, but he knew French and German better than he did English, which he always spoke badly and wrote worse. His son, George IV, spoke and wrote better English, but it still had a decided German twang, which was also true of his brother, William IV, who succeeded him. Queen Victoria spoke English with a decided German accent, and her son, the late King, was not free from this. German tutors have always had the preference in the households of the Hanoverian sovereigns, and their pupils have been infected with their Teutonic mannerisms. George V is, however, a thorough Englishman, even in his insularity and pride of nationality. In his youth he disliked all foreigners in a thoroughly British feeling of superiority. Probably he is now entirely over this defect, but he will at least speak and write the language of his country better than any of his forebears.

The politicians are much interested in the appointment of Robert S. Sharp, of Tennessee, as Chief Post Office Inspector. This office is one thru which political influence can be most effectively exercised, as he is the chief field man of the service, and his recommendations as to appointments and changes have great weight. When the Civil Service League questioned him with regard to the political activity of officeholders he replied:

"Will further state that I always assert my rights of an American citizen, and if holding an office prevents me from doing so, then I must prefer turning loose the office. I cannot see that the holding of an office should make a man lose his citizenship."

He was appointed Postmaster at Chattanooga in 1896, was twice a candidate for Congress, but defeated, and his ideas against the most powerful external Revenue at Nashville.

The suffragists are not as vicious and sparkling as before they hissed the President, but they know a great deal more.

DEATH OF EDWARD VII.

The whole civilized world is in mourning over the unexpected death of the genial, popular King of Great Britain and Emperor of the Indies. The King of Great Britain is a mere figurehead, with few functions of any importance outside of his social duties, but it is admitted by all that Edward VII played his part with dignity and grace and did all, and did it well, that a King could be expected to do. He presided at corner-stone layings, lent his presence to any movement that looked for the good of his people, and gained a very high reputation as a diplomat. This latter was something beyond his functions, but in the complicated and intricate system of diplomacy in Europe the personality of a King still goes for a good deal, and it is believed that Edward VII quietly gained very many points in the game over his strenuous nephew, the Emperor of Germany.

The highest tribute that can be paid to a deceased monarch comes to Edward VII in the fact that without any striking achievement by him or identification with great causes every Englishman and English woman feels a personal bereavement in his death.

So admirably is the political machinery of England adjusted that there is as little friction in passing the scepter of power from one hand to another as there is in this country when one President succeeds another.

There is such speculation as to the policy and character of the new King, but this cannot lead to anything. To such a degree has constitutional Government been developed in England that the control of affairs is absolutely in the hands of a committee of Parliament, with the King reduced to the function of registering and approving the will of the ministry. Unless the new King should be positively bad and obstinately determined as to the old-time notion of being really a King and governing, his influence will be merely nominal. More than 250 years ago the English fought out the question of the King's active participation in the Government, and decided it adversely. Since that time all the tendencies have been in the direction of divesting him more and more of real influence, and the new King will undoubtedly be as content as his recent predecessors to let things stand as they have been under his father and grandfather. It is not likely that he will even attempt to use his influence in the reformation in the House of Lords, upon which the people of England seem bent. Otherwise George V seems a pleasant, capable sort of a person, who will devote himself to his social functions, and altho he may never become as popular as his father, he will still be a satisfactory King, a thorough Englishman, and devoted to the interests, the prejudices and the peculiarities of his people.

A whole lot of folks in this country and in Europe stand to lose a great deal of money in the present craze for investments in rubber. While the price of rubber is going up rapidly, owing to the demand for it for tires and other important uses, the possibilities of the supply are increasing in equal ratio. There can be no such thing as a monopoly in rubber for any length of time, because there are too many sources yet unworked. As soon as rubber began to go up very markedly some years ago the planting of rubber trees began, and has been quite successful. This was particularly marked in India and Ceylon. It was found that the rubber tree was not only easy to grow under cultivation, but that it made a most remarkable development. Some trees planted in Ceylon attained a height of 50 feet and a girth of two feet in six years. The best rubber comes from Para, in Brazil, and is the product of a tree known to botanists as the Hevea Brasiliensis. This tree is the one which has been found to do so well under cultivation. Undoubtedly the high price of rubber will send exploring parties into the now unknown interior of South America, where the supply of rubber will be found to be enormous. Beside the Hevea there are many other plants producing rubber, and these are widely distributed over South America, Africa, Asia and the South Sea Islands. Some few years ago it was discovered that the guyaule, a shrub growing rather thickly over the desert regions of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico, yielded about 10 per cent of rubber, and immediately there was a guyaule craze which was taken advantage of by unscrupulous men to rob a great many credulous people. This procedure was ended, however, and the guyaule production is now going on in a safe, sane, commercial way, with profit to the men who have invested in companies controlled by reputable business managers. We will urge on our readers to let rubber schemes severely alone. Those schemes that are of any real value are not on the market, but in the hands of men who want the profits for themselves, while those which are advertised and worked are pretty certain to lose all the money that the credulous will put into them.

An effort is being made to popularize Porto Rico coffee in this country. Porto Rico raises the best coffee in the world, but the demand for it has been very small. One of the propositions is to allow packages of Porto Rico coffee weighing not more than two pounds to be sent thru the mails free to possible customers, so as to familiarize them with the article and develop a liking for it. The plan is likely to meet with strenuous opposition from the merchants who have made large investments in Brazilian coffee.

The term of Senator La Follette will expire March 3, 1911, and a vigorous interest is already developing as to the question of his successor, who will have to be elected next Winter. The present Legislature of Wisconsin is Republican on joint ballot by 52.

Nicknames seem rare in Oklahoma politics. Wm. H. Murray, who claims to be the farmers' candidate for Governor, is called "Alfalfa Bill," "Cockle-bur Bill" and similar bucolic additions to his ordinary cognomen.

ENGLAND IN MOURNING.

King Edward Dead and His Son Proclaimed King George V. Some Kingly History.

The world will learn with unfeigned regret of the death of King Edward, but it was not unexpected. He had lived too much of his life, and had lived it too well, before coming to the throne, to hold the scepter exceptionally long. The startling news—for death is always startling, whether expected or unexpected—reached the world at 11:50 p. m. May 6. The King breathed his last at 11:45 that night in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Royal, the Duchess of York, Princess Victoria, and Princess Louise, the Duchess of Argyll. It is almost pathetic to think that the Duke of Connaught, the brother with whom he had been but recently reconciled, was not at his side when the Almighty Conqueror came. As a young man he was found with the Duke of Connaught, and the news reached them at Suez. The King's daughter, Queen Maude of Norway, was not with him, either.



THE LATE KING EDWARD.

King Edward had returned to England from a vacation some 10 days ago, and seemed to be in the very best of health on his arrival at the palace in London. He was ill less than a week, and it is thought that pneumonia followed by bronchitis would not have been fatal but for the fact that the King was so seriously alarmed and worried over political conditions in England.

Immediately upon the death of the King, the Prince of Wales, known as George Frederick Ernest Albert, became King, and elected to be known as King George V.

King Edward, who loved life and all the things that make it agreeable and pleasant, has been one of the remarkable figures in the public eye almost since his birth. He was a good liver, in that he loved the best things to eat and drink. He was passionately fond of hunting; was devoted to all kinds of athletic games; was a lover of good horses, and himself owned a notable string, which he raced under his own colors. He was a promoter of the drama and music, interested in all charitable performances, and in a great many ways was in advance of his mother, Queen Victoria, in his ideas of how and when and where to do things. Edward was born in Buckingham Palace, London, on June 9, 1841, as the second child and eldest son of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort Albert. He was christened Albert Edward, and at his birth was created Prince of Wales, becoming by virtue of that title also a Knight of the Garter. As heir apparent to the British crown he succeeded to the title and emoluments of the Duke of Cornwall. As heir to the crown of Scotland he became Great Steward of Scotland, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, and Lord of the Isles. He was solemnly baptized Jan. 25, 1842, at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, amid scenes of great splendor and in the presence of Frederick William, King of Prussia, who was his godfather, and a throng of Embassadors representing almost every large nation in the world.

His boyhood days were spent in the quiet surroundings of an ideal home.

Our First Royal Visitor.

King Edward was the only heir to throne up to 1860 who had visited the United States. He was the first to land in Canada to visit the Dominion as a representative of his mother, Queen Victoria. He was only 19 years old at that time, but he was in hard training for the kingship. He was a slender, rather frolicsome young lad at that time, and many are the escapades that are told under the breath of England's future ruler as he skulked over the country. Sept. 20, 1860, he arrived in the United States, thru Detroit, Mich. From there he came to Washington, which he reached about Oct. 1. He traveled as Baron Renfrew, supposedly incognito, and made things merry from that date until Oct. 15, when he